



SO THIS THEN IS YE

of ye
ANCIENT MARINER

WHEREIN

Is told Whilom on a Day an Ancient Sea-
Faring Man Detaineth a Wedding-Guest &
Telleth him a Grewsome Tale.

Written by *SAMUEL TAYLOR COLE-*
RIDGE

For ye better Understanding of ye Gentle
Reader, Various Pictures are here Inserted
by one *William W. Denflow*

Ye First Edition Corrected and Improved

Done into a Booke by ye merrie ROYCROFTERS at ye *ROY-
CROFT SHOP*, at ye Sign of ye *Hippocampus*, adja-
cent to ye Deestrick Academy for ye Younge, which is in
East Aurora, New York, United States of America. 1899

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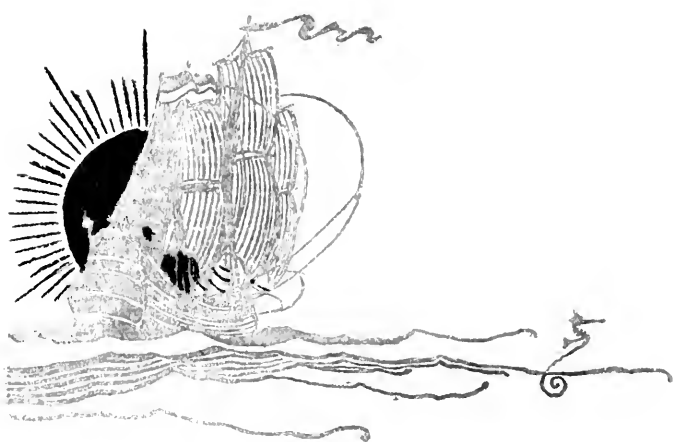
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Elbert Hubbard



Various of ye pictures are
did by hande by ye *First*
Ladies of East Aurora at
a Bee : where ye Ladies
were kindly supervised by
ye DEACON DENSLOW.



Y E R I M E

of ye

*ANCIENT
MARINER*

PART I.



Tis an ancient Mar-
iner,
And he stoppeth
one of three.

“By thy long gray beard and
glittering eye,
Now wherefore stopp’st thou
me?”

An ancient
Mariner
meeteth
three gal-
lants bidden
to a wedding
feast, and
detaineth
one.

“The Bridegroom’s doors are
opened wide,
And I am next of kin ;
The guests are met, the feast is
set ;
May’st hear the merry din.”

He holds him with his skinny
hand ;
“There was a ship,” quoth he.
“Hold off! unhand me, gray-
beard loon ! ”
Eftsoons his hand dropt he.

The Wed-
ding-Guest
is spell-
bound by

He holds him with his glittering
eye ;

The Wedding-Guest stood still,
And listens like a three years'
child;

The Mariner hath his will.

The Wedding-Guest sat on a
stone :

He cannot choose but hear ;
And thus spake on that an-
cient man,

The bright-eyed Mariner :

“The ship was cheered, the
harbor cleared,
Merrily did we drop
Below the kirk, below the hill,
Below the lighthouse top.

the eye of
the old sea-
faring man,
and con-
strained to
hear his
tale.

The Mari-
ner telleth
how the
ship sailed
southward
with a good
wind and
fair weath-
er, till it
reached the
Line.

“The sun came up upon the left,
Out of the sea came he;
And he shone bright, and on
the right
Went down into the sea.

“Higher and higher every day,
Till over the mast at noon—”
The Wedding-Guest here beat
his breast,
For he heard the loud bassoon.

The Wed-
ding-Guest
heareth the
bridal

The bride hath paced into the
hall,
Red as a rose is she;

Nodding their heads before her
goes

The merry minstrelsy.

The Wedding-Guest here beat
his breast,

Yet he cannot choose but hear ;
And thus spake on that ancient
man,

The bright-eyed Mariner :

“ And now the storm-blast came,
and he

Was tyrannous and strong :
He struck with his o’ertaking
wings,

And chased us south along.

music ; but
the Mariner
continueth
his tale.

The ship
drawn by a
storm to-
ward the
south pole.

“ With sloping masts and dipping
prow,

As who pursued with yell & blow
Still treads the shadow of his foe,
And forward bends his head,
The ship drove fast, loud roared
the blast,
And southward aye we fled.

“ And now there came both mist
and snow,

And it grew wondrous cold :
And ice, mast-high, came float-
ing by,
As green as emerald.

“And through the drifts the
 snowy clifts
Did send a dismal sheen :
Nor shapes of men nor beasts
 we ken,—
The ice was all between.

“The ice was here, the ice was
 there,
The ice was all around :
It cracked and growled, and
 roared and howled,
Like noises in a swound !

“At length did cross an Alba-
 tross;
Through the fog it came ;

The land of
ice, and of
fearful sound
where no
living being
was to be
seen.

Till a great
sea-bird,
called the
Albatross,
came
through the

snow-fog
and was re-
ceived with
great joy
and
hospitality.

As if it had been a Christian
soul,
We hailed it in God's name.

“It ate the food it ne'er had eat,
And round and round it flew.
The ice did split with a thunder-
fit;
The helmsman steered us
through!

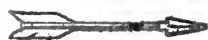
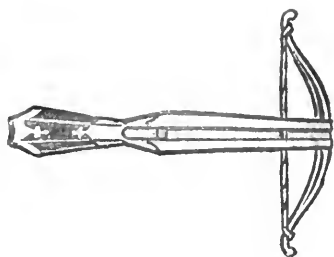
And lo !
the Alba-
tross prov-
eth a bird
of good
omen, and
followeth
the ship as
it returned
northward
through fog
and floating
ice.

“And a good south-wind sprung
up behind;
The Albatross did follow,
And every day, for food or play,
Came to the mariners' hollo!

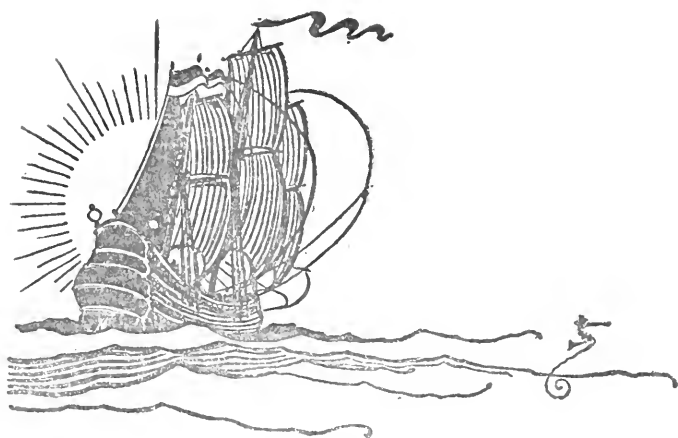
“In mist or cloud, on mast or
shroud,
It perched for vespers nine;
Whiles all the night, through
fog-smoke white,
Glimmered the white moon-
shine.”

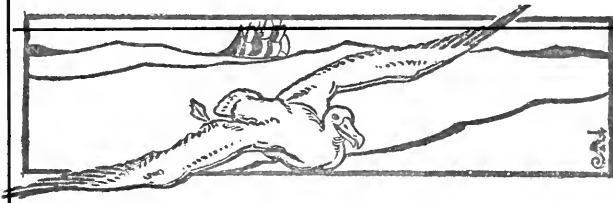
“God save thee, ancient Mari-
ner!
From the fiends, that plague
thee thus!—
Why look'st thou so!” —“With
my cross-bow
I shot the Albatross!”

The ancient
Mariner in-
hospitably
killeth the
pious bird of
good omen.









PART II.

HE sun now rose
upon the right :
Out of the sea
came he,
Still hid in mist, and on the left
Went down into the sea.

And the good south-wind still
blew behind,
But no sweet bird did follow,
Nor any day for food or play
Came to the mariners' hollo !

His ship-
mates cry
out against
the ancient
Mariner,
for killing
the bird of
good luck.

And I had done a hellish thing,
And it would work 'em woe :
For all averred, I had killed the
bird

That made the breeze to blow.
Ah, wretch ! said they, the bird
to slay,
That made the breeze to blow !

But when
the fog
cleared off,
they justify
the same,
and thus
make them-
selves ac-
complices
in the
crime.

Nor dim nor red, like God's
own head,
The glorious sun uprist :
Then all averred, I had killed
the bird
That brought the fog and mist.

'T was right, said they, such
birds to slay,
That bring the fog and mist.

The fair breeze blew, the white
foam flew,
The furrow followed free;
We were the first that ever burst
Into that silent sea.

Down dropt the breeze, the sails
dropt down.

'T was sad as sad could be :
And we did speak only to break
The silence of the sea !

The fair breeze continues ; the ship enters the Pacific Ocean, and sails northward, even till it reached the Line.

The ship hath been suddenly becalmed.

All in a hot and copper sky,
The bloody sun, at noon,
Right up above the mast did
stand,
No bigger than the moon.

Day after day, day after day,
We stuck, nor breath nor mo-
tion;
As idle as a painted ship
Upon a painted ocean.

And the
Albatross
begins to be
avenged.

Water, water, everywhere,
And all the boards did shrink;
Water, water, everywhere,
Nor any drop to drink.

The very deep did rot: O Christ!
That ever this should be!
Yea, slimy things did crawl with
 legs
Upon the slimy sea.

About, about, in reel and rout
The death-fires danced at night;
The water, like a witch's oils,
Burnt green, and blue, and
 white.

And some in dreams assured
 were
Of the spirit that plagued us so;

A Spirit had
followed
them ; one
of the invis-
ible inhab-
itants of
this planet,
neither de-
parted souls
nor angels ;
concerning
whom the
learned Jew,
Josephus,

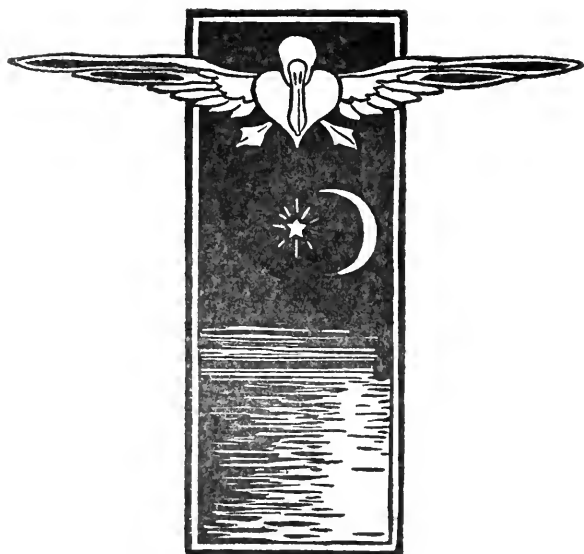
and the
Platonic
Constanti-
nopolitan,
Michael
Psellus,
may be con-
sulted.
They are
very numer-
ous, and
there is no
climate or
element
without one
or more.

The ship-
mates, in
their sore
distress,
would fain
throw the
whole guilt
on the an-
cient Mari-
ner : in sign
whereof
they hang
the dead
sea-bird
round his
neck.

Nine fathoms deep he had fol-
lowed us
From the land of mist and snow.

And every tongue, through utter
drought,
Was withered at the root ;
We could not speak, no more
than if
We had been choked with soot.

Ah! well-a-day! what evil looks
Had I from old and young !
Instead of the cross, the Alba-
tross
About my neck was hung.







PART III.

passed a
weary time.

Each throat
Was parched, and
glazed each eye.

When looking westward, I
beheld

A something in the sky.

At first it seemed a little speck,
And then it seemed a mist;

The ancient
Mariner
beholdeth a
sign in the
element
afar off.

It moved and moved, and took
at last

A certain shape, I wist.

A speck, a mist, a shape, I wist !
And still it neared and neared :
As if it dodged a water-sprite,
It plunged and tacked and
veered.

At its nearer approach,
it seemeth
him to be a
ship ; and
at a dear
ransom he
freeth his
speech from
the bonds of
thirst.

With throats unslaked, with
black lips baked,
We could nor laugh nor wail ;
Through utter drought all
dumb we stood !

I bit my arm, I sucked the blood,
And cried, A sail, A sail !

With throats unslaked, with
 black lips baked,
 Agape they heard me call :
 Grammercy ! they for joy did
 grin,
 And all at once their breath
 drew in,
 As they were drinking all.

See ! see ! (I cried) she tacks
 no more !
 Hither to work us weal,—
 Without a breeze, without a tide,
 She steadies with upright keel !

The western wave was all aflame,
 The day was wellnigh done !

A flash of
 joy ;

And horror
 follows.
 For can it
 be a ship
 that comes
 onward
 without
 wind or
 tide ?

Almost upon the western wave
Rested the broad bright sun ;
When that strange shape drove
suddenly
Betwixt us and the sun.

It seemeth
him but the
skeleton of
a ship.

And straight the sun was fleck-
ed with bars,
(Heaven's Mother send us
grace !)
As if through a dungeon-grate
he peered
With broad and burning face.

Alas ! (thought I, and my heart
beat loud)
How fast she nears and nears !

Are those her sails that glance
 in the sun,
 Like restless gossameres?

Are those her ribs through which
 the sun

Did peer, as through a grate?
 And is that woman all her crew?
 Is that a Death? and are there
 two?

Is Death that Woman's mate?

Her lips were red, her looks
 were free,
 Her locks were yellow as gold:
 Her skin was as white as leprosy,

And its ribs
 are seen as
 bars on the
 face of the
 setting sun.
 The Spec-
 tre Woman
 and her
 Death-
 mate, and
 no other on
 board the
 skeleton-
 ship.

Like vessel,
 like crew!



The Nightmare Life-in-Death
 was she,
 Who thicks man's blood with
 cold.

Death and
 Life-in-
 Death have
 diced for
 the ship's
 crew, and
 she (the
 latter) win-
 neth the
 ancient
 Mariner.

The naked hulk alongside came,
 And the twain were casting dice?
 "The game is done! I've won!
 I've won!"
 Quoth she, and whistles thrice.

No twilight
 within the
 courts of
 the sun.

The sun's rim dips; the stars
 rush out:
 At one stride comes the dark;
 With far-heard whisper, o'er the
 sea,
 Off shot the spectre-bark.

We listened and looked side-
ways up!

Fear at my heart, as at a cup,
My life-blood seemed to sip!

The stars were dim, and thick
the night,

The steersman's face by his lamp
gleamed white;

From the sails the dew did
drip,—

Till clomb above the eastern bar

The horned moon, with one
bright star

Within the nether tip.

One after one, by the star-
dogged moon,

At the ris-
ing of the
moon.

One after
another,

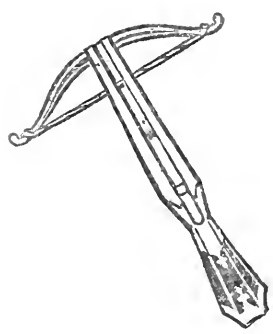
His ship-
mates drop
down dead.

Too quick for groan or sigh,
Each turned his face with a
 ghastly pang,
And cursed me with his eye.

But Life-
in-Death
begins her
work on the
ancient
Mariner.

Four times fifty living men,
(And I heard nor sigh nor
 groan !)
With heavy thump, a lifeless
 lump,
They dropped down one by one.

The souls did from their bodies
 fly,—
They fled to bliss or woe!
And every soul, it passed me by,
Like the whizz of my cross-bow !









PART IV.

FEAR thee, ancient
Mariner !

I fear thy skinny
hand !

And thou art long, and lank,
and brown,
As is the ribbed sea-sand.

I fear thee & thy glittering eye,
And thy skinny hand, so
brown." —

The Wedding-Guest
feareth that
a Spirit is
talking to
him.

But the ancient Mariner assureth him of his bodily life, and proceedeth to relate his horrible penance.

He despiseth the creatures of the calm.

And envieth that they should

“ Fear not, fear not, thou Wedding-Guest !

This body dropt not down.

Alone, alone, all, all alone,
Alone on a wide, wide sea !
And never a saint took pity on
My soul in agony.

The many men, so beautiful !
And they all dead did lie :
And a thousand thousand slimy
things
Lived on ; and so did I.

I looked upon the rotting sea,
And drew my eyes away ;

I looked upon the rotting deck,
And there the dead men lay.

I looked to heaven, and tried
to pray ;

But or ever a prayer had gusht,
A wicked whisper came, and
made

My heart as dry as dust.

I closed my lids, and kept them
close,

And the balls like pulses beat ;
For the sky and the sea, and
the sea and the sky

Lay like a load on my weary
eye,

And the dead were at my feet.

live, and so
many lie
dead.

But the
curse liveth
for him in
the eye of
the dead
men.

The cold sweat melted from
their limbs,
Nor rot nor reek did they :
The look with which they look-
ed on me
Had never passed away.

An orphan's curse would drag
to hell
A spirit from on high ;
But oh ! more horrible than that
Is the curse in a dead man's eye !
Seven days, seven nights, I saw
that curse,
And yet I could not die.

The moving Moon went up
 the sky,
 And nowhere did abide :
 Softly she was going up,
 And a star or two beside—

Her beams bemocked the sul-
 try main,
 Like April hoar-frost spread ;
 But where the ship's huge shad-
 ow lay,
 The charmed water burnt always
 A still and awful red.

Beyond the shadow of the ship,
 I watched the water-snakes :
 They moved in tracks of shin-
 ing white,

In his lone-
 liness and
 fixedness
 he yearneth
 towards the
 journeying
 Moon, and
 the stars
 that still so-
 journ, yet
 still move
 onward ;
 and every-
 where the
 blue sky be-
 longs to
 them, and
 is their ap-
 pointed rest,
 and their
 native
 country and
 their own
 natural
 homes,
 which they
 enter unan-
 nounced, as
 lords that
 are certainly
 expected,
 and yet
 there is a
 silent joy at
 their arrival.

By the light
of the moon
he behold-
eth God's
creatures of
the great
calm.

And when they reared, the elf-
ish light
Fell off in hoary flakes.

Within the shadow of the ship
I watched their rich attire:
Blue, glossy green, and velvet
black,
They coiled and swam; and
every track
Was a flash of golden fire.

Their beau-
ty and their
happiness.

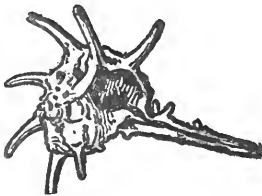
O happy living things! no ton-
gue
Their beauty might declare:
A spring of love gushed from
my heart,

And I blessed them unaware,—
Sure my kind saint took pity
on me,
And I blessed them unaware.

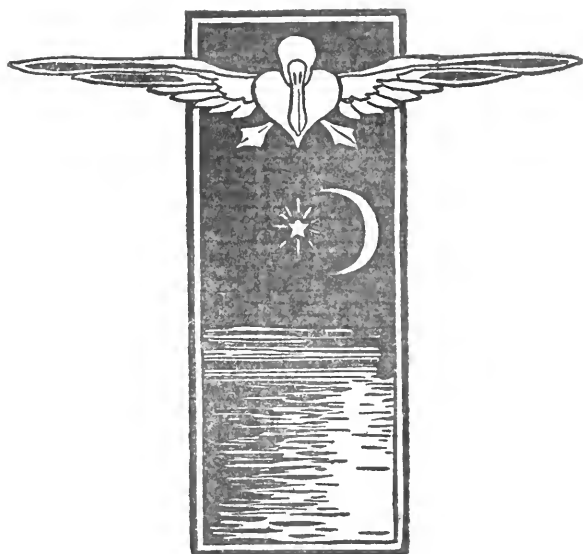
The selfsame moment I could
pray ;
And from my neck so free
The Albatross fell off, and sank
Like lead into the sea.”

He blesseth
them in his
heart.

The spell
begins to
break.









PART V.

SLEEP! it is a
gentle thing,
Beloved from pole
to pole!

To Mary Queen the praise be
given!

She sent the gentle sleep from
Heaven,
That slid into my soul.

The silly buckets on the deck,
That had so long remained,

By grace of
the holy
Mother,

the ancient
Mariner is
refreshed
with rain.

I dreamt that they were filled
with dew ;

And when I awoke, it rained.

My lips were wet, my throat
was cold,

My garments all were dank ;
Sure I had drunken in my
dreams.

And still my body drank.

I moved, and could not feel my
limbs :

I was so light—almost
I thought that I had died in
sleep,

And was a blessed ghost.

And soon I heard a roaring
wind :

It did not come anear ;
But with its sound it shook the
sails,

That were so thin and sere.

The upper air burst into life !
And a hundred fire-flags sheen,
To and fro they were hurried
about !

And to and fro, and in and out,
The wan stars danced between.

And the coming wind did roar
more loud,

And the sails did sigh like sedge ;

He heareth
sounds and
seeth
strange
sights and
commotions
in the sky
and the ele-
ment.

And the rain poured down from
one black cloud ;
The moon was at its edge.

The thick black cloud was cleft,
and still

The moon was at its side :
Like waters shot from some high
crag,
The lightning fell with never a
jag,
A river steep and wide.

The bodies
of the ship's
crew are in-
spired, and
the ship
moves on ;

The loud wind never reached
the ship,
Yet now the ship moved on !

Beneath the lightning and the
moon

The dead men gave a groan.

They groaned, they stirred, they
all uprose,

Nor spake, nor moved their eyes;

It had been strange, even in a
dream,

To have seen those dead men
rise.

The helmsman steered, the ship
moved on;

Yet never a breeze up blew;

The mariners all 'gan work the
ropes,



Where they were wont to do ;
 They raised their limbs like
 lifeless tools,—
 We were a ghastly crew.

The body of my brother's son
 Stood by me, knee to knee :
 The body and I pulled at one
 rope,
 But he said naught to me."

But not by
 the souls of
 the men,
 nor by de-
 mons of
 earth or
 middle air,
 but by a
 blessed troop
 of angelic
 spirits, sent
 down by the

"I fear thee, ancient Mariner!"
 "Be calm, thou Wedding-Guest!"
 'T was not those souls that fled
 in pain,
 Which to their corses came again,
 But a troop of spirits blest :

For when it dawned they drop-
ped their arms,
And clustered round the mast;
Sweet sounds rose slowly through
their mouths,
And from their bodies passed.

Around, around, flew each sweet
sound,
Then darted to the sun;
Slowly the sounds came back
again,
Now mixed, now one by one.

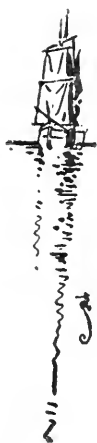
Sometimes a-dropping from the
sky
I heard the skylark sing:

invocation
of the
guardian
saint.

Sometimes all little birds that
are,
How they seemed to fill the
sea and air
With their sweet jargoning !

And now 't was like all instru-
ments,
Now like a lonely flute ;
And now it is an angel's song,
That makes the heavens be mute.

It ceased ; yet still the sails
made on
A pleasant noise till noon,
A noise like of a hidden brook
In the leafy month of June,



That to the sleeping woods all
 night
Singeth a quiet tune.

Till noon we quietly sailed on,
Yet never a breeze did breathe :
Slowly and smoothly went the
 ship,
Moved onward from beneath.

Under the keel nine fathom .
 deep,
From the land of mist and snow,
The Spirit slid : and it was he
That made the ship to go.
The sails at noon left off their
 tune,
And the ship stood still also.

The lone-
some Spirit
from the
South Pole
carries on
the ship as
far as the
Line, in
obedience to
the angelic
troop, but
still requir-
eth ven-
geance.

The sun right up above the
mast,
Had fixed her to the ocean :
But in a minute she 'gan stir,
With a short uneasy motion,—
Backwards and forwards half
her length,
With a short uneasy motion.

Then like a pawing horse let go,
She made a sudden bound :
It flung the blood into my head,
As I fell down in a swoond.

The Polar
Spirit's fel-
low demons,
the invisible
inhabitants

How long in that same fit I lay,
I have not to declare ;
But ere my living life returned,

I heard, and in my soul discerned

Two voices in the air.

‘Is it he?’ quoth one, ‘Is this
the man?’

By him who died on cross,
With his cruel bow he laid full low
The harmless Albatross.

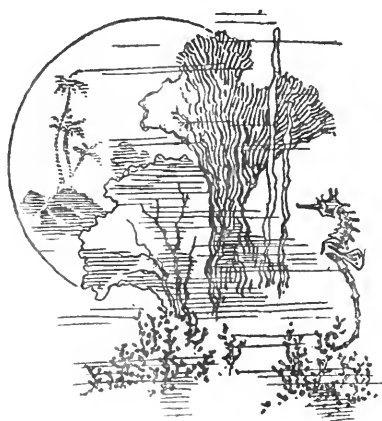
The Spirit who abideth by himself

In the land of mist and snow,
He loved the bird that loved
the man

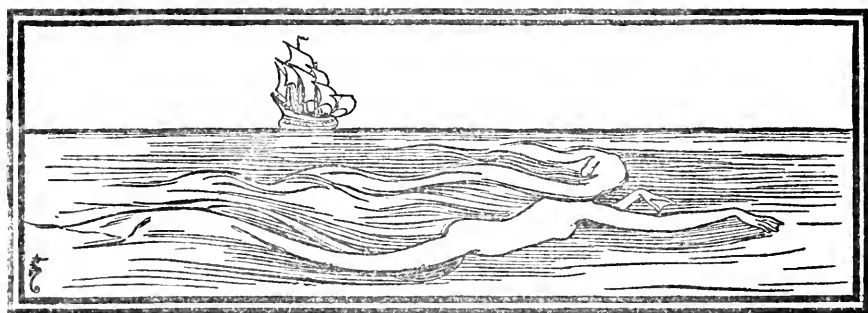
Who shot him with his bow.’

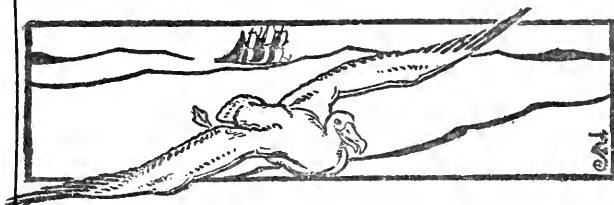
of the element, take part in his wrong; and two of them relate, one to the other, that penance long and heavy for the ancient Mariner hath been accorded to the Polar Spirit, who returneth southward.

The other was a softer voice,
As soft as honey-dew :
Quoth he, ‘ The man hath pen-
ance done,
And penance more will do.’ ”









PART VI.

FIRST VOICE.

tell me, tell me !
 speak again,
Thy soft response
 renewing—
What makes that ship drive on
 so fast ?
What is the ocean doing ? ’

SECOND VOICE.

‘ Still as a slave before his lord,
The ocean hath no blast ;

His great bright eye most si-
lently

Up to the moon is cast—

If he may know which way to
go ;

For she guides him smooth or
grim.

See, brother, see ! how graciously
She looketh down on him.’

FIRST VOICE.

‘ But why drives on that ship so
fast,

Without or wave or wind ? ’

SECOND VOICE.

‘ The air is cut away before,
And closes from behind.

The Mari-
ner hath
been cast
into a
trance ; for
the angelic
power
causeth the
vessel to
drive north-
ward faster
than human
life could
endure.

Fly, brother, fly ! more high,
more high !

Or we shall be belated :

For slow and slow that ship
will go,

When the Mariner's trance is
abated.'

I woke, and we were sailing on

As in a gentle weather :

'T was night, calm night, the
moon was high ;

The dead men stood together.

All stood together on the deck,
For a charnel-dungeon fitter :

The supernatural motion is retarded ; the Mariner awakes, and his penance begins anew.

All fixed on me their stony eyes,
That in the moon did glitter.

The pang, the curse, with which
they died,

Had never passed away :

I could not draw my eyes from
theirs,

Nor turn them up to pray.

The curse
is finally
expiated.

And now this spell was snapt :
once more

I viewed the ocean green,
And looked far north, yet little
saw

Of what had else been seen—

Like one, that on a lonesome
road

Doth walk in fear and dread,
And having once turned round,
walks on,

And turns no more his head;
Because he knows, a frightful
fiend

Doth close behind him tread.

But soon there breathed a wind
on me,

Nor sound nor motion made:
Its path was not upon the sea,
In ripple or in shade.

It raised my hair, it fanned my
cheek

Like a meadow-gale of spring—
It mingled strangely with my
fears,
Yet it felt like a welcoming.

Swiftly, swiftly flew the ship,
Yet she sailed softly too :
Sweetly, sweetly blew the
breeze—

On me alone it blew.

Oh ! dream of joy ! is this indeed
The lighthouse top I see ?
Is this the hill ? is this the kirk ?
Is this my own countree ?

And the an-
cient Mari-
ner behold-
eth his
native
country.

We drifted o'er the harbor-bar,
And I with sobs did pray—
O let me be awake, my God!
Or let me sleep away.

The harbor-bay was clear as glass,
So smoothly it was strewn!
And on the bay the moonlight
lay,
And the shadow of the moon.

The rock shone bright, the kirk
no less,
That stands above the rock:
The moonlight steeped in si-
lentness
The steady weathercock.



The angelic
spirits leave
the dead
bodies.

And appear
in their own
forms of
light.

And the bay was white with
 silent light
Till, rising from the same,
Full many shapes, that shadows
 were,
In crimson colors came.

A little distance from the prow
Those crimson shadows were :
I turned my eyes upon the
 deck—
O Christ ! what saw I there !
Each corse lay flat, lifeless and
 flat,
And, by the holy rood !
A man all light, a seraph-man,
On every corse there stood.

This seraph-band, each waved
his hand :

It was a heavenly sight !

They stood as signals to the land,
Each one a lovely light ;

This seraph-band, each waved
his hand,

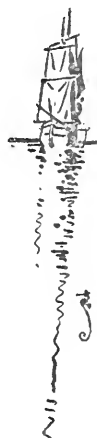
No voice did they impart—

No voice ; but oh ! the silence
sank

Like music on my heart.

But soon I heard the dash of
oars,

I heard the Pilot's cheer ;



My head was turned perforce
away,
And I saw a boat appear.

The Pilot and the Pilot's boy,
I heard them coming fast:
Dear Lord in Heaven! it was a
joy
The dead men could not blast.

I saw a third—I heard his voice:
It is the Hermit good!
He singeth loud his godly hymns
That he makes in the wood.
He 'll shrieve my soul, he 'll
wash away
The Albatross's blood."







PART VII.

Hermit good
lives in that
wood

Which slopes down
to the sea.

How loudly his sweet voice he
rears!

He loves to talk with marineres
That come from a far countree.

He kneels at morn, and noon,
and eve—

He hath a cushion plump:

The Hermit
of the
wood,

It is the moss that wholly hides
The rotted old oak-stump.

The skiff-boat neared : I heard
them talk

‘ Why, this is strange, I trow !
Where are those lights so many
and fair,
That signal made but now ? ’

‘ Strange, by my faith ! ’ the
Hermit said—

‘ And they answered not our
cheer !

The planks looked warped ! and
see those sails,
How thin they are and sere !

Approach-
eth the ship
with won-
der.

I never saw aught like to them,
Unless perchance it were
Brown skeletons of leaves that
lag

My forest-brook along;
When the ivy-tod is heavy with
snow,

And the owlet whoops to the
wolf below,

That eats the she-wolf's young.'

'Dear Lord! it hath a fiendish
look—

(The Pilot made reply)

I am a-feared'—'Push on,
push on!'

Said the Hermit cheerily.

The boat came closer to the
ship,
But I nor spake nor stirred ;
The boat came close beneath
the ship,
And straight a sound was heard.

The ship
suddenly
sinketh.

Under the water it rumbled on,
Still louder and more dread :
It reached the ship, it split the
bay ;
The ship went down like lead.

The ancient
Mariner is
saved in the
Pilot's boat.

Stunned by the loud and dread-
ful sound,
Which sky and ocean smote,

Like one that hath been seven
days drowned
My body lay afloat;
But swift as dreams, myself I
found
Within the Pilot's boat.

Upon the whirl, where sank the
ship,
The boat spun round & round;
And all was still, save that the
hill
Was telling of the sound.

I moved my lips— the Pilot
shrieked
And fell down in a fit;



The holy Hermit raised his eyes,
And prayed where he did sit.

I took the oars: the Pilot's boy,
Who now doth crazy go,
Laughed loud and long, and
all the while

His eyes went to and fro.

‘Ha! ha!’ quoth he, ‘full plain
I see,

The Devil knows how to row.’

And now, all in my own
countrie,

I stood on the firm land!

The Hermit stepped forth from
the boat,

And scarcely he could stand.

‘O shrieve me, shrieve me, holy
man!’

The Hermit crossed his brow.

‘Say quick,’ quoth he, ‘I bid
thee say—

What manner of man art thou?’

Forthwith this frame of mine
was wrenched

With a woful agony,

Which forced me to begin my
tale;

And then it left me free.

Since then, at an uncertain hour,

That agony returns:

And till my ghastly tale is told,

This heart within me burns.

The ancient
Mariner
earnestly
entreateth
the Hermit
to shrieve
him; and
the penance
of life falls
on him.

And ever
and anon
throughout
his future
life an ago-
ny con-
straineth

him to travel
from land
to land.

I pass, like night, from land to
land ;

I have strange power of speech ;
That moment that his face I see,
I know the man that must hear
me :

To him my tale I teach.

What loud uproar bursts from
that door !

The wedding-guests are there :
But in the garden-bower the
bride

And bride-maids singing are :
And hark the little vesper bell,
Which biddeth me to prayer !

O Wedding-Guest ! this soul
hath been
Alone on a wide, wide sea :
So lonely 't was, that God him-
self
Scarce seemed there to be.

O sweeter than the marriage-
feast,
'T is sweeter far to me,
To walk together to the kirk
With a goodly company !—

To walk together to the kirk,
And all together pray,
While each to his great Father
blends,

And to
teach by
own exam-
ple love and
reverence to
all things
that God
made and
loveth.

Old men, and babes, and lov-
ing friends,
And youths and maidens gay !

Farewell ! farewell ! but this I
tell

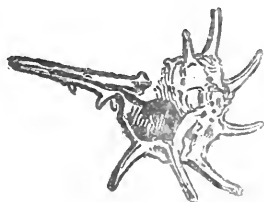
To thee, thou Wedding-Guest !
He prayeth well, who loveth well
Both man and bird and beast.

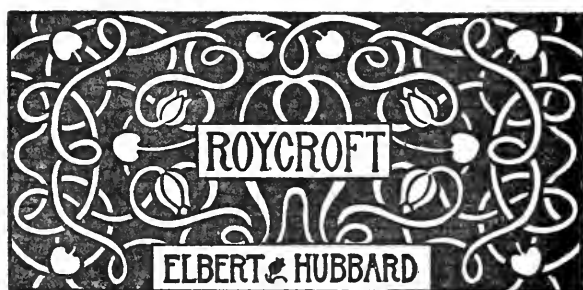
He prayeth best, who loveth best
All things both great and small ;
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all."

The Mariner, whose eye is bright,
Whose beard with age is hoar,

Is gone: and now the Wedding-
Guest
Turned from the bridegroom's
door.

He went like one that hath
been stunned,
And is of sense forlorn :
A sadder and a wiser man,
He rose the morrow morn.





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